

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a contention-based, multiple access communication system comprising the steps of:
 - 5 accepting a reservation request for access by a user to a shared communication resource, the reservation request indicating at least a future date and time;
 - creating a reservation record in a management data base, the reservation record associated with the user; and
 - 10 at the appointed date and time, reserving at least a portion of the shared communication resource for exclusive use by the user.
2. A method as in claim 1 wherein the reservation request specifies a desired bandwidth for the shared communication resource.
3. A method as in claim 1 wherein the reservation request additionally specifies a physical location for the shared communication resource.
4. A method as in claim 1 wherein the reservation request additionally specifies a call duration for the shared communication resource.
5. A method as in claim 4 comprising the additional step of:
 - 20 releasing the reserved communication resource once the call duration specified by the reservation request has expired.
6. A method as in claim 4 comprising the additional step of:

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13. A method as in claim 1 wherein the reservation record additionally specifies a billing rate for the reservation request.
14. A method as in claim 1 wherein the reservation request is made for the user by another party who will participate in communicating with the user at the appointed date and time.
15. A method as in claim 1 wherein the wireless communication system is a cellular system, and the method further comprises the additional steps of:
- accepting a reservation request indicating an expected physical location for the user at the appointed date and time; and
 - reserving a communication resource in one or more cells in an area near the expected physical location.
16. A method as in claim 1 wherein the wireless communication system is a cellular system, and the method further comprises the additional steps of:
- accepting a reservation request indicating an expected physical location and expected route for the user at the appointed date and time; and
 - reserving a communication resource in one or more cells located along the expected route.